



City of Cincinnati

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For Immediate Release

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CITY “ROLLS OUT” INNOVATIVE AUTOMATED TRASH COLLECTION SYSTEM

As part of its efforts to improve the cleanliness of our neighborhoods the City of Cincinnati implementing a six-month pilot project in three areas of the city, involving almost 2,000 households in parts of Westwood, East Walnut Hills/Evanston, and Mt. Washington.

The pilot project will test various forms of automation in an effort to improve the efficiency and safety of our solid waste collection systems. As part of the new pilot program, residents will use wheeled trash carts that can be lifted mechanically at the collection vehicle.

The pilot project is intended to test the feasibility of investing in fully-automated collection equipment in an effort to create cleaner neighborhoods and a safer, more efficient collection service.

Background

The following is a brief description of the equipment components of automated waste collection systems:

Carts – These are heavy-duty plastic wheeled trash containers, with hinged lids. The most commonly used size is 96 gallons, holding approximately three regular garbage cans’ worth of trash. Residents store their weekly accumulation of waste in this container, and simply roll it to the curb on their regular collection day. The use of these carts greatly reduces the waste storage and set-out problems of litter and rodents. The carts effectively keep garbage in and animals and moisture out.

Semi-automated Collection – This is the type of system whereby collection personnel roll the cart to the rear of a standard garbage truck, where a mechanical lifting device picks the cart up and



dumps it into the hopper of the vehicle. All of the City's front line garbage trucks are equipped with at least one lifter; newer vehicles have two.



Fully-automated Collection – In this approach, the cart is collected by the driver from within the cab of the vehicle, using a remotely-controlled articulated arm. The driver first pulls the garbage truck alongside the curb, to where the cart was placed by the resident. The arm is then extended to grab the cart and empty it into the hopper of the vehicle. This approach to automation not only requires a specialized collection vehicle, it also requires a physical environment that is conducive to such collection (i.e.,

plenty of off-street parking, uncongested streets, not-too-steep topography, and sufficient clearance from overhead utility lines and tree branches). Fully-automated collection also relies on the cooperation of the residents to place the carts in the proper location and position for collection. We will be renting a fully-automated truck for the duration of the pilot project.

Pilot Project Plans

The Department of Public Services and the Office of Environmental Management, in cooperation with the Department of General Services Fleet Services Division, will be implementing the six-month pilot project beginning September 30, 2002 and ending March 31, 2003. This project has placed approximately 2,000 carts into three neighborhood test areas:

West – An area in Westwood will test the use of a fully-automated collection system

East/Central – Parts of East Walnut Hills and Evanston will test the placement and semi-automated servicing of carts in an area that has a mix of different types of customers

East – A portion of Mt. Washington will also try the fully-automated collection approach

In all three areas, we are asking the residents to place all of their garbage into the carts and to call Customer Services at 591-6000 to arrange for a special pickup of items that will not fit into the cart. Eliminating the out-of-cart set-outs is a very important part of this effort to reduce litter and modernize collection. The separate collection of recyclables and yard waste will be unaffected by this project.

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